



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/779,779	02/08/2001	Jean M. Goldschmidt Iki	42390P6482D	6746
7590	01/10/2006			EXAMINER
Gordon R. Lindeen III BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP Seventh Floor 12400 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026				RAMAN, USHA
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	
				DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/779,779	GOLDSCHMIDT IKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Usha Raman	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10-20-05, 4-29-05, 2-08-01

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-22, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wugofski (6,003,041) in view of Goldschmidt et al. (US Pat. 6,295,646).

Regarding claims 1, 10 and 16, Wugofski discloses an electronic device (i.e. a convergence device) comprising the method systems of:

Receiving an electronic programming guide at the electronic device (see Wugofski: column 4, lines 50-66).

Receiving a selection of an entertainment program with in the electronic programming guide from a user at the electronic device (see Wugofski: column 4, lines 40-44)

Identifying multiple available versions of the same selected entertainment program in the electronics program guide (see Wugofski: column 5, lines 5-12, and Fig. 4)

Identifying for each of the multiple versions, a set of characteristics of each respective versions of the same selected entertainment program (wherein

“characteristic” refers to the respective input selection source for the entertainment program; see Wugofski: figure 4, column 423)

Wugofski further discloses selecting by the electronic device, one of the multiple versions of the entertainment program for display (see column 3, lines 29-44, column 4, lines 37-44, column 5, lines 5-7), but fails to disclose that the selection is based on user preferences for entertainment program characteristics that are received from the user and stored at the electronic device.

Goldschmidt teaches in a convergence device system, the step of receiving from the user a preference for entertainment program characteristics (wherein characteristics indicates preference of entertainment selection source), storing the preference at the electronic device and later using the preference for outputting the video data corresponding to the preferred selection source to the user. See Goldschmidt: column 7, lines 41-46, lines 31-36, column 9, lines 55-63.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to modify the system of Wugofski in view of Goldschmidt's teachings by allowing the user to indicate a preference for a selection source and tuning to the video data provided by that selection source, when multiple versions of the same entertainment program are available. The motivation is allow the electronic device to automatically provide the video feed in accordance with user preferences.

With further regards to claim 10, Wugofski shows a computer for controlling the system, which contains a storage medium having stored a plurality of instructions (col. 3 lines 45-67, col. 4 lines 1-33, fig. 2).

Regarding Claims 2, 11, and 17, Wugofski shows that the entertainment programs start within a threshold period of time of one another (col. 5 lines 1-14, 50-67, fig. 4).

Regarding Claims 3, 12 and 18, Wugofski shows that at least some of the multiple versions are provided on different transport media (col. 3 lines 1-26, col. 5 lines 1-67), the method further comprising identifying a set of descriptive information regarding the channel transport medium (col. 5 lines 1-15, lines 35-60), and wherein selecting comprises selecting one of the multiple versions for display based on the sets of channel transport medium descriptive information (col. 5 lines 35-67).

Wugofski shows information pertaining to the device name, if the device is tunable or not, and signal source (col. 5 lines 20-50).

Regarding Claims 4, 13, and 19, Wugofski shows receiving a selection of an entertainment program and identifying alternate versions of the selected entertainment program that all start at approximately the same time. See figure 4.

Regarding claims 5, 14 and 20, the modified system comprises the step of selecting one of the multiple versions having the identified characteristics (i.e. selection source identified in electronic program guide, see Wugofski: fig. 4) most closely resembling the user preferences for entertainment program characteristics (see Goldschmidt: column 9, lines 55-63).

Regarding Claims 7, 15, and 21, Wugofski shows that identified characteristic includes channel transport medium (see fig. 4). Wugofski shows information

pertaining to the device name, if the device is tunable or not, and signal source (see col. 5 lines 20-50).

Regarding Claim 9, Wugofski shows searching through data of an electronic programming guide (col. 4 lines 35-67, col. 5 lines 1-15).

Regarding Claim 22, Wugofski shows the ability of the user to manually input parental controls, which are preferences (col. 4 lines 22-25).

Regarding Claim 25, Wugofski shows a user interface that allows the user to manually input parental controls, which are preferences (col. 4 lines 8-33).

4. Claims 6, 8, 20, 23-24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wugofski (6,003,041) in view of Goldschmidt et al. (US Pat. 6,295,646) as applied to claims 1, 10 and 16 above, and further in view of Rosser (US Pat. 6,446,261).

Regarding claims 6 and 20, the modified system comprises the step of selecting a video program based on various other characteristics (see Goldschmidt: column 8, lines 36-39), but does not comprise the step of selecting one of multiple versions having the most number of characteristics that conform to the user preferences.

Rosser teaches the step of using a set of user preferences to select one of multiple versions of content (col. 7 lines 45-57, col. 8 lines 20-65, col. 10 lines 20-35, col. 12 lines 1-20, 60-67, col. 13 lines 35-48, collecting data for an exclusive user database to select content). Rosser shows selecting one of a multiple of content versions based on a set of descriptive information most closely resembling the set of user preferences (col. 8 lines 20-63, col. 12 lines 55-67, col. 13 lines 1-12, 35-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the system in view of Rosser's teachings by selecting one of the multiple versions of the entertainment program having the most number of characteristics that conform to the user preferences in order to provide the user with a more customized stream of programming.

Regarding claims 8, 23, and 24, the modified system does not comprise the steps of identifying a user of an entertainment system, accessing user preferences for the identified user and then selecting one of the multiple versions for display based on the accessed user preferences.

Rosser teaches the step of using a set of user preferences to select one of multiple versions of content (col. 7 lines 45-57, col. 8 lines 20-65, col. 10 lines 20-35, col. 12 lines 1-20, 60-67, col. 13 lines 35-48, collecting data for an exclusive user database to select content). Rosser shows identifying a user of an entertainment system (col. 15 lines 5-28), accessing user preferences for the identified user (col. 15 lines 28), and selecting content from versions of content based on a comparison of the sets of descriptive information (col. 14 lines 50-60).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the system in view of Rosser's teachings by identifying a user of the system and then selecting one of the multiple versions of the entertainment program conforming to the identified user's preferences in order to provide customized programming for each of the users a multi-user system.

With further regards to Claim 23 and 26, Rosser shows determining the user preferences by monitoring the behavior of the user (col. 8 lines 1-55, col. 9 lines 50-67, col. 12 lines 1-5).

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usha Raman whose telephone number is (571) 272-7380. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

UR



CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600